

Nettalk

Free East Timor Coalition

UPDATE (16) — November 1999

Phone/Fax (09) 376 9098 • PO Box 68 419 Newton, Auckland • email maire@clear.net.nz

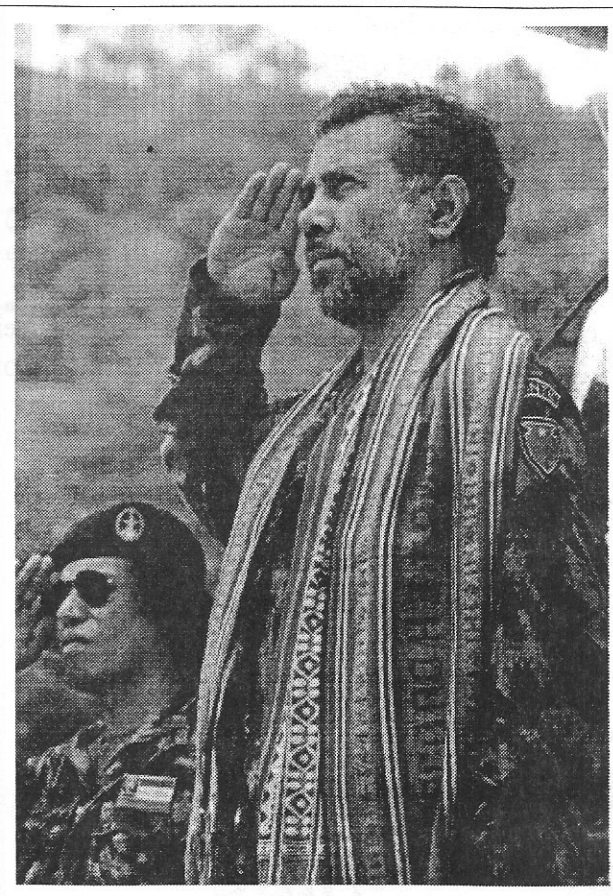
Xanana's return to East Timor — to plant the seeds of hope

"They tried to kill us, but we are still here, crying and suffering but still alive. We will rebuild our homeland. Nothing can stop us ...our suffering is very heavy. All the warriors that have died, we bow our heads in respect. We take them in our hearts ... this land is ours, we will be independent forever..."

His hands clasped above his head in a gesture of victory. Xanana Gusmão transfixed the wildly cheering thousands gathered outside the former Governor's residence in free Dili. As he spoke in a voice filled with pain that seemed to come from deep within, few in the crowd could hold back their tears. Xanana exhorted his people to remain disciplined and assured them of his faith in them — "the future belongs to you."

For most in the audience this day, October 22, was their first sighting of the leader who assumed control of the armed resistance in 1978, and who was arrested and jailed by Indonesia seven years ago. Finally freed on September 7, Xanana says that he returns to East Timor as a guerrilla fighter. He avows that he does not seek the top post, but it is widely expected that he will be the first President when the UN transitional period ends in two to three years.

Xanana will head the pivotal seven person CNRT transition council to work with the UN administration, and he has already met with the Indonesian representatives responsible for the transfer of remaining documentation and infra-



Xanana Gusmão at Remexio with the Falintil fighters following his return to East Timor

structure. He appealed to Indonesia to stem the flow of arms to West Timor. As for the militia, Xanana says that they may return, but they must "accept with honesty, that they have to confess their crimes to the people."*

Contact the Free East Timor Coalition

Whangarei:

Tamaki Makau Rau/Auckland:

Kirikiri/roa/Hamilton:

Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington:

Otautahi/Christchurch:

Otepoti/Dunedin:

c/- Tim Howard, RD 9 Maunu, Whangarei ph/fax 09 434 6633

East Timor Independence Committee Box 68 419 Newton ph/fax 09 376 9098

c/- CORSO Box 9437 ph 07 839 1246

East Timor Action Box 9314 ph 04 385 6728, fax 04 385 7545

East Timor Independence Campaign Box 1905 ph 03 366 2803 fax 03 366 8035

c/- CORSO Box 1375 ph 03 477 3395 fax 03 474 0736

Safe Air helps reassemble jets

Despite two national protest actions, ongoing lobbying, and strong local media comment, Blenheim firm Safe Air went ahead and sent back the two Indonesian airforce Skyhawk jets it was refurbishing under contract.

Safe Air even sent technicians to Indonesia to help reassemble the Skyhawks. When this became known in September at the height of East Timor's post ballot agony there was widespread outrage. In answer to criticism from East Timor activists and politicians, Safe Air's project manager said from Jakarta that the company had no concerns about embarking on the contract. "We are quite comfortable with this particular project and look forward to the Indonesians resolving their internal problems," said Mr Day. "The Government choosing to cut military ties has got nothing to do with us."

Ministry of Foreign Affairs also ducked for cover and would not accept any moral responsibility for trying to intervene as the scorched earth campaign continued in East Timor. They said that the military had granted a licence which covered only the export parts of the deal so in their view their role was over once the Skyhawks left. "What they are doing in the way of maintenance and support is a commercial arrangement between the Indonesian Airforce and Safe Air."

Since Safe Air is a subsidiary of Air New Zea-

land Auckland ETIC approached Air New Zealand to request a meeting to discuss the issue with their management in Auckland. However, this was declined — "as the work is now at an end and the operation of the trainer aircraft is beyond our influence."

The General Manager was however willing to meet with Labour, Alliance and Green politicians who were to have been included in the delegation — negotiations continue.*



East Timor activists at Blenheim airport in support of a ban on the export of the Skyhawk aircraft to Indonesia.

Indonesian officers continue their NZ studies

On the 10th September, the Minister of Defence, Max Bradford announced that military co-operation with Indonesia had been suspended. Bizarrely Max Bradford expressed regret that "New Zealand's long-standing relationship with an important regional partner was coming under strain".

Of the six officers studying here only two were actually sent home. Four others doing their Masters of Philosophy at Massey University have been allowed to remain. They are studying such topics as "New Zealand's strategic environment, tech-

niques of defence policy analysis, joint services campaign planning and principles of human resource management."

New Zealand has been training Indonesian military personnel since 1973 — our actions gave Indonesia's armed forces much valued respectability. The close military-to-military ties of New Zealand, Australia and the US surely contributed to the fatal error made by the United Nations which agreed to allow the Indonesian military to be in charge of security in East Timor during the lead up to the independence ballot.*

East Timorese form new group

Throughout 1999 the solidarity network has been privileged to have the support of the East Timorese Students in New Zealand (ETSA). They have been active participants in our activities. Members have travelled from Palmerston North and Dunedin to take part in demonstrations and in some very effective lobbying of local and international politicians. Members of the group have also taken part in international conferences.

It is probable that these highly able post graduate students will go on from their Massey and Otago University courses to play an important role in the new East Timor.

Recently ETSA members have been in huge demand from media, aid NGOs and government for their advice and help. Timor Lorasae Contact

(TLC) has been formed as a response to the needs of this new situation and aims to strengthen co-operation between New Zealand and East Timor with an emphasis on development issues. TLC will provide invaluable support to NGOs and to government in developing new relationships with the transitional government of East Timor.

The group has an emergency action programme centred on refugee, humanitarian, post-trauma needs and resettlement issues and more long term programmes such as educational co-operation, business and infrastructure development. The officers are — Spokesperson: Jorge da Conceicao Teme, Secretary Anor Sihombing, Development Co-ordinator Anacleto Ribeiro and Treasurer Umbelina Duarte.*

NZ Aid agencies respond to the challenge in East Timor

- **UNICEF** — airlifting emergency relief, ground supply of food, vaccinations and education.

- **World Vision** — has longer term development programmes focusing on food security, health, income generation, also emergency relief.

- **Oxfam NZ** has prioritised water and sanitation work, and is seeking skilled engineers to assist with this work. Has been distributing emergency supplies in the border areas.

- **The Tear Fund** is working in both East and West Timor with two local partners, providing medical aid, milk powder and clothing.

- **The Christian Childrens Fund** is helping with urgent needs for displaced people in West Timor. Has developed a programme to assist traumatised children and adults.

- **Caritas** works with the most trusted organisation in East Timor — the Catholic Church. Caritas is supplying emergency food and shelter, and advocating for the displaced. The Caritas medical team going to East Timor will help to restore the extensive Catholic health network, and will also offer trauma counselling and paediatric work

- **Christian World Service's** first priority is advocacy — CWS has been channeling relief aid through Protestant churches in West Timor, providing shelter, food, blankets, health services, tents, and kerosene stoves to refugees. CWS has launched an appeal for long term reconstruction.

- **CORSO** is supporting its partner, the East Timor Relief Association, (ETRA), whose offices in Dili were trashed during the militia rampage. Once re-established, ETRA will be supporting language training, rehabilitation, training for NGO personnel, composting, research into alternative energy sources and the re-establishment of water buffalo.*

Caritas Appeal for East Timor: Freepost 689 PO Box 12-193, Wellington \$20 donation line 0900 4 11 11.

Oxfam East Timor Appeal Freepost Box 68-357, Newton, Auckland 0800 600 700 for donations.

CORSO East Timor Appeal Box 1905, Christchurch Phone (03) 366 2803.

NZ — East Timor Solidarity Groups

Christchurch

- Highly successful September 26 fund-raising choral concert raised \$1,500 for the East Timor Relief Association.
- Information stalls and video screenings
- Strong voice for East Timor on related demonstrations, public meetings.
- Production of action alert.
- October 9, Opinion page article in the the Press.

Dunedin

- Embassy of East Timor opened at dawn on September 11 in the Octagon, ran as a 24 hour operation for a week, now open three days a week for petition signing, sale of T shirts, and signing cards and letters to NZ and world leaders.
- Dunedin has held public meetings and several rallies and raised funds. Meetings are weekly and membership has grown.
- Upcoming projects include a "Too young to vote" petition, art projects, petitions and a rally for November 12 national day of action.

Hamilton

- Contingency planning for refugees.

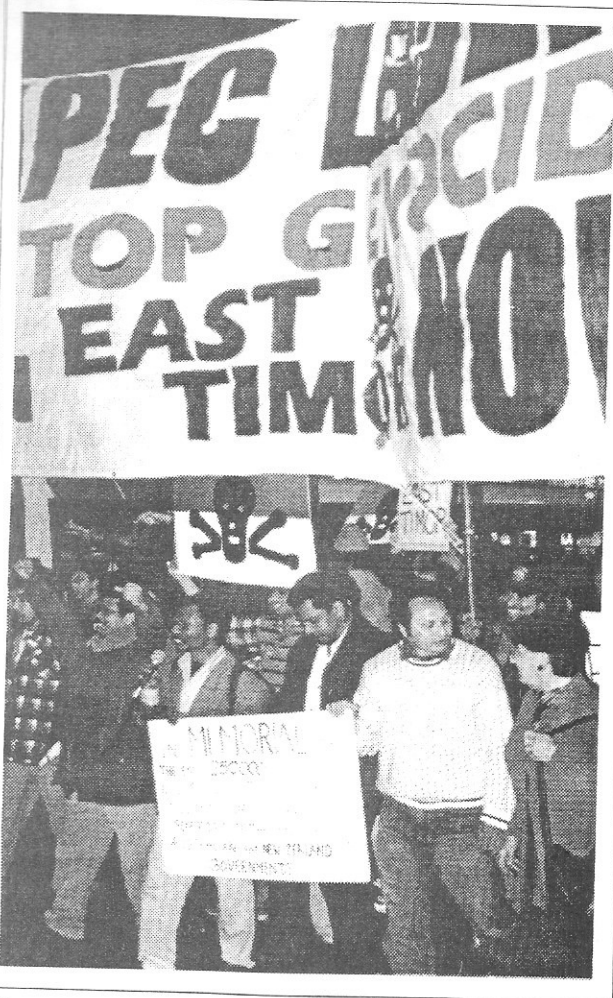
Wellington

- Fundraising appeal for family members of the East Timorese in New Zealand.
- September 8, march on Parliament led by East Timorese activists.
- Numerous petition and postcard stalls.
- Support for groups involved with Boycott Bali campaign.
- Close Liason with Caritas and their aid and humanitarian work within East Timor.

Whangarei

- Intense activity collecting petition signatures and fundraising for Caritas.
- Tim Howard seized the moment and challenged Jenny Shipley to pressure Jakarta while the press were following her in Whangarei Mall. He has had nationwide speaking engagements.
- Whangarei has supported the spontaneous Boycott Bali and Boycott Garuda initiatives.

Web Site — <http://shell.ihug.co.nz/~stuf/fret/main.html>



The East Timorese activists lead the 2000 strong march up Queen Street, Auckland in support of a free East Timor — photo Gil Hanly

Auckland

- An ongoing picket petition and information stall outside the Methodist Mission Centre was the focus for the range of anti-APEC protests
 - September 8, 200 people marched on the Heritage Hotel to deliver a letter to the representative of the Indonesian trade delegation.
 - September 11, 2000 Aucklanders gave Jose Ramos-Horta a fitting welcome — the largest ever East Timor demonstration in Auckland.
 - September 17, Downtown Rally. Special thanks to the Topp Twins.
 - An urgent contribution of \$2,000 for refugees in West Timor was sent through Caritas.
 - October 14, Auckland City Council East Timor Fund established — \$20,000 'seeding' grant.
- Nettalk November 1999 p 4

RESPEITU — East Timorese vote

It was a privilege to be in East Timor for seven weeks with IFET-OP as an international NGO observer of the consultation process. A particular privilege was to have spent time with Pastor Franciscu da Vasconcelos Ximenes, Protestant leader and a fine theologian.

Franciscu had spoken of the 'high consciousness' with which Timorese were entering the vote process, a consciousness that is sacred and requires 'respeitu' (respect). In the past, the church had spoken on behalf of Timorese when asked, but now the people would speak for themselves. Telling the people what was best for them, as well as brute force, suppressed 'high consciousness.'

Franciscu is reported as having been murdered on 10 September on the road between Dili and Baucau. Apparently his last words were "Please voice our voices."

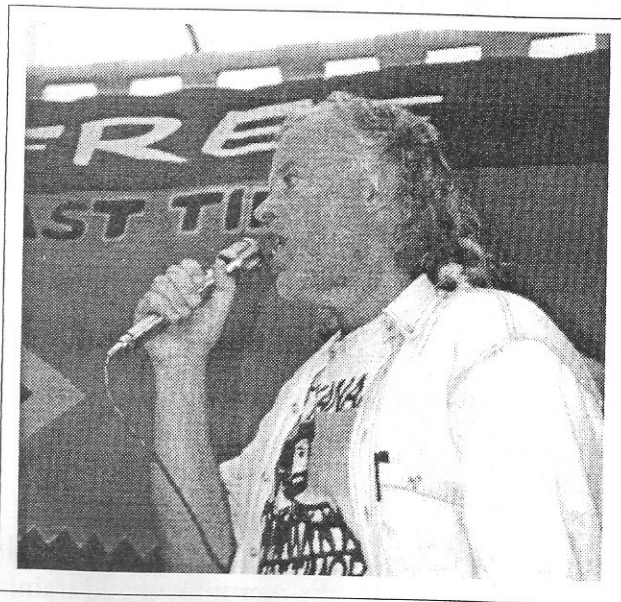
For 24 years the East Timorese people have fought a brutal regime in the face of western betrayal and appeasement.

Now 98.9% of registered East Timorese have voted with their feet across the mountains of Timor. Though many are still vulnerable in Indonesia and at home, the people have survived the cynical TNI-driven plan to annihilate them by fire, evacuation and murder. We patronise them to our own detriment.

In Los Palos, on Friday 27 August, a horde of militia machete-murdered 70 year-old Verissimo Quintas in front of his family and burnt his house and the neighbouring CNRT office. His assassins were sheltered by police, and that weekend Los Palos was totally deserted. But on Monday morning, when voting began, thousands were there; 96.1% braved the militia and the TNI to vote. Timorese bravery, and "high consciousness," demands our respect.

The resistance armed forces Falintil — with the integrated support of the majority of the population — have waged a disciplined defensive war against the Indonesian army for nearly 24 years. I find hints that they now have to beg to be involved in the defence of their homeland disturbing.

Liberating forces, governments and development agencies all have a role to play, but each can end up patronising those they seek to help. Each institution



Tim Howard — photo Gil Hanly

can, in a colonial manner, assume rescuer-victim relationships.

East Timor is no vacuum; outsiders need to work with its indigenous structures. The 78.5% vote for a CNRT-led independence surely requires the NZ Government to consider actively recognising CNRT's standing in Timor as a Government-in-waiting.

Xanana Gusmão and CNRT have delegated responsibility to Agio Pereira and the East Timor Relief Association for liaising with development and relief agencies. NGOs wishing to assist East Timor should be prepared to respect a Memorandum of Understanding with CNRT's representatives.

The 'high consciousness' (in Franciscu's terms) of the new nation of East Timor deserves our deep respect.*

[Latest reports are that Franciscu is alive]

Tim Howard
NGO Observer, Baucau

CLOTHING FOR EAST TIMOR

Wanted — Clothing such as T-shirts, jeans, light jackets, linen and blankets

Collection coordinated by Ian Sugden — ph 09 828 5579

Pick up arranged if in Auckland

Reality of life in East

Jose Ramos Horta has accused Indonesia of abducting 100,000 East Timorese and displacing 300,000 others. Describing the events that have taken place since the East Timor voted overwhelmingly for independence on August 30, Horta said that this was "the extraordinary criminal act since World War II." He also insisted that the Indonesian military were responsible for the abductions, not the militia.

The Resistance backs the establishment of a new UN body to oversee East Timor's transition to independence. UNTAET (United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor) confirmed by the Security Council on October 25 will shortly take over responsibility for security from INTERFET (the International Force for East Timor) and establish a new civil administration. Sergio Vieira de Mello from Brazil will head the new body.

The UNTAET will include a force of just over 10,000 armed peacekeepers and police. UNTAET police are to be responsible for the recruitment and training of a "credible, professional and impartial" East Timorese police force.

UNTAET is to oversee the rebuilding of East Timor's judiciary, public service and civilian police force and provide humanitarian assistance and emergency rehabilitation. East Timorese advisory bodies will be established to ensure participation in "governance and administration" before elections for self-rule, expected within two to three years.

Bernard Miyet, UN undersecretary-general for peacekeeping operations, said, "The CNRT will be a key player, but it will be the objective of the United Nations to be inclusive in order to ensure that East Timor will start on the best footing. But, for the time being, it is difficult to envisage bringing in the pro-integration militia representatives."

The UN mandated multinational force INTERFET has been criticised for taking too long to restore security to East Timor. It took INTERFET until October 22 to reach the enclave of Oecusse, in spite of the repeated warnings from Falantil sources that the militia was building up to a full scale assault. Reports filtered out of massacres in which 70 or more people were killed, and of mass evacuations into the hills and into West Timor. Aid and humanitarian assistance to Oecusse was delayed while the area remained in a security vacuum.

INTERFET Commander, Peter Cosgrove has denied the charge that his forces have been slow, and said on October 22 that his troops had established a security perimeter around East Timor. Aid agencies face enor-

mous logistical problems — air dropping food is problematic and lack of sufficient trucks has hampered overland deployment.

The need for rapid action is great with the approach of the wet season and estimates by the UN World Programme that some 740,000 East Timorese (population around 890,000) will need food and humanitarian assistance for at least the next six months.

The numbers of those killed in the post-ballot period remains uncertain, but peacekeepers and human rights investigators have made chilling discoveries. A mass grave of at least 20 bodies was found in Liquica, but the biggest single massacre of the ballot period is believed to have occurred in Suai. Timorese priests and more than 200 sheltering refugees are believed to have been killed, most hacked to death by militia.

At the time of writing, about 200,000 people are believed to be still hiding in the forests and mountains beyond the reach of aid agencies and INTERFET.

On October 8, the UN High Commission for Refugees began assisting with the repatriation of the estimated 250,000 East Timorese forcibly deported to West Timor and other parts of Indonesia. UNHCR denounced Indonesia's plans to conduct its own 'registration' process requiring East Timorese to state their preferences without any guarantee of safe expression or free choice. By Labour weekend around 8,000 had returned home.

Returnees have told harrowing stories of militia persecution in the camps — of nightly gunfire and deaths and 'disappearances' especially of young men. Timorese in the camps have little or no information about the situation in East Timor and have been fed 'black' propaganda about INTERFET. Aid agencies and Indonesian child care investigators have been desperately concerned about the health dangers faced by those remaining in the West Timor camps — hundreds of babies are said to have died, and thousands are ill and suffering from malnutrition.

An estimated 5-6000 East Timorese are also reported to be seeking evacuation from Indonesian cities where they are on the run from militia persecution. The

st Timor



Boys drinking from the makeshift water supply set up at the Dili stadium to supply much needed water to the returning refugees.

group of 300 returned from Jakarta on October 14.

The INTERFET force was established after President Habibie's September 12 'invitation' to the UN. Habibie had little choice but to accept international intervention after the US cut off military ties and threatened to impose major economic sanctions. However, the formula that East Timor was still "Indonesian territory" until its Parliament voted to revoke the annexation decree helped to save the Indonesian army (TNI) from total humiliation. In keeping with this whitewash New Zealand ministers of foreign affairs and defence chose to describe our ongoing relationship with Indonesia as merely "strained".

East Timorese leaders, although constrained by diplomacy, expressed their anger and frustration that arrested militia were handed over to the Indonesian police after being held briefly. CNRT leaders Xanana Gusmão and Jose Ramos Horta responded angrily to statements from INTERFET commander Major General Peter Cosgrove calling for Falintil to disarm, following the "stand-off" between an INTERFET patrol and Falintil guerillas in the town of Cairui on October

4. Negotiations between Falintil field commander Taur Matan Ruak and INTERFET chief of staff Colonel Mark Kelly resulted in acceptance that Falintil can remain armed, under certain conditions.

Mari Alkatiri, vice-president of Fretilin and a member of the CNRT political commission, said on October 7, "We will never accept a disarmament of Falintil because we think it has a real base to set up the future East Timor armed force."*

New Zealand is one of 16 nations contributing forces to INTERFET. Victor Company's 400 personnel arrived in Dili on September 30, but a contingent of SAS troops were there much earlier. Also committed: two C130 Hercules, 4 Iroquois helicopters and 25 armoured personnel carriers. The initial 400 personnel has been increased to battalion strength - 800 soldiers. The NZ Government has so far pledged a total of \$1,750,000 to the humanitarian relief effort.

A wider perspective

Joe Davies comments on the role of international business in supporting regimes such as that in Indonesia.

For 24 years as the East Timorese resisted the Indonesian invasion of their country, the international community responded with indifference and silence.

The international finance community has supported the Indonesian military. While the resistance had to rely on captured weapons and old rifles issued in the days when Portugal ruled East Timor, Indonesia had seemingly unlimited access to everything from hand grenades to high-tech fighter-bombers. They were never asked questions about where and how it was being used.

The money came mainly from international investors living outside Indonesia, particularly in the United States, Great Britain and Australia.

Concomitant with this massive military spending on repression in East Timor (and West Papua, Aceh, the Moluccas and many other parts of Indonesia), there has been a conspiracy of silence in the world's political institutions over the effects the use of this weaponry was having on the ground.

The link between the two phenomena, business growth and international political silence, is not coincidental. It is noteworthy that it is only since the so-called "Asian crisis", when Indonesian stock values plummeted to depths from which they have yet to recover, that the issue of East Timor's independence has had any realistic chance of being resolved.

International business interests have far too much say in global politics. The extraordinarily high rates of return that investors were able to extract from Indonesia over the thirty year period of Suharto's "New Order" regime meant that other sovereign states were reluctant to rock the boat with morally based quibbles about human rights or self-determination.

Investors like business-friendly policies, such as open access to natural resources, a cheap and docile labour force, low compliance costs (ie. no strictly enforced environmental or worker protection laws) and low taxation rates. This in turn lead to minimal or non-existent provision of housing. *Nettalk* November 1999 p 8



Money changing in Jakarta

ing, health and education for citizens. Since these policies marginalize people, governments that enforce such policies need strong armies and police forces to maintain order and keep the profits flowing. Corruption is considered an acceptable price to pay for the continuation of business-friendly policies.

We have ended up with a world whose international institutions (the United Nations, the IMF, World Bank, G7 etc) act as executive committees carrying out the wish lists of giant business conglomerates.

Is it true that what benefits big business tends to benefit society? In the drive to extract money from people, living standards for the vast majority are ground down to the point where no one can afford the goods and services businesses have to offer. Businesses then go broke and whole economies spiral into a cycle of ever tightening contraction — it used to be called depression.

It is high time that governments and international political institutions began to act for the welfare of ordinary people. In the new millennium, it is unthinkable that the interests of whole populations might continue to be sacrificed on the altar of business profits.

This dramatic change will not happen by itself. But if we are to prevent the sort of tragedy we have seen in East Timor, we are going to have to find a way to achieve this goal, somehow. *

Chomsky — Why we should care

Academic, Noam Chomsky has campaigned for East Timor since the 1975 invasion.

It is not easy to write with feigned calm and dispassion about the events that have been unfolding in East Timor. Horror and shame are compounded by the fact that the crimes are so familiar and could so easily have been halted.

Indonesia invaded the territory in December 1975, relying on US diplomatic support and arms, used illegally but with secret authorisation from Washington; new arms shipments were sent under the cover of an official "embargo".

There was no need to threaten bombing or even sanctions. It would have sufficed for the US and its allies to withdraw active participation and inform their associates in the Indonesian military command that the atrocities must be terminated and the territory granted the right of self-determination, as upheld by the UN and the international court of justice. We cannot undo the past, but should at least be willing to recognise what we have done, and face the moral responsibility of saving the remnants and providing reparations — a small gesture of compensation for terrible crimes.

Even before president Habibie's surprise call for a referendum this year, the army anticipated threats to its rule, including its control over East Timor's resources, and undertook careful planning with "the aim, quite simply... to destroy a nation".

The plans were known to western intelligence. The army recruited thousands of West Timorese and brought in forces from Java. More ominously, the military command sent units of its dreaded US-trained Kopassus special forces and, as senior military adviser, General Makarim, a US-trained intelligence specialist with "a reputation for callous violence".

Terror and destruction began early in the year. The army forces responsible have been described as "rogue elements" in the west. There is good reason, however, to accept Bishop Belo's assignment of direct responsibility to General Wiranto. It appears that the militias have been managed by elite units of Kopassus, the "crack special forces unit" that had, according to veteran Asia correspondent David Jenkins, "been training regularly with US and Australian forces until their behaviour became too much of an embarrassment".

These forces adopted the tactics of the US Phoenix programme in the Vietnam war, which killed tens of thousands of peasants and much of the indigenous South Vietnamese leadership, Jenkins writes, as well as "the tactics employed by the Contras" in Nicaragua. The state terrorists were "not simply going after the most radical pro-independence people, but ... the moderates, the people who have influence in their community."

Well before the referendum, the commander of the Indonesian military in Dili, Colonel Tono Suratman, warned of what was to come: "If the pro-independents do win ... all will be destroyed. It will be worse than 23 years ago". An army document of early May, when international agreement on the referendum was reached, ordered "massacres should be carried out from village to village after the announcement of the ballot if the pro-independence supporters win". The independence movement "should be eliminated from its leadership down to its roots".

Citing diplomatic, church and militia sources, the Australian press reported that "hundreds of modern assault rifles, grenades and mortars are being stockpiled, ready for use if the autonomy option is rejected at the ballot box".

All of this was understood by Indonesia's "foreign friends", who also knew how to bring the terror to an end, but preferred evasive and ambiguous reactions that the Indonesian generals could easily interpret as a "green light".

The sordid history must be viewed against the background of US-Indonesia relations in the post-war era. The rich resources of the archipelago, and its critical strategic location, guaranteed it a central role in US global planning. These factors lie behind US efforts 40 years ago to dismantle Indonesia, perceived as too independent and too democratic. These factors account for western support for the regime of killers and torturers who emerged from the 1965 coup.

Their achievements were seen as a vindication of Washington's wars in Indochina, motivated in large part by concerns that the "virus" of independent nationalism might "infect" Indonesia.

Surely we should by now be willing to cast aside mythology and face the causes and consequences of our actions, and not only in East Timor.

[Abridged].*

Can Wahid improve democracy

On Wednesday 20 October, the Indonesian People's Consultative Assembly formally accepted the results of the August 30 vote of the East Timorese people, by revoking the decree by which East Timor was annexed. The last 1,500 or so Indonesian soldiers will soon leave Dili.

Within hours the Assembly had also elected a new President — Abdurrahman Wahid (known as Gus Dur). His new deputy, Megawati Sukarnoputri, earlier tipped to win, may be more than usually influential on account of Wahid's frail health.

Outgoing President Habibie could please no-one. He was condemned for being part of the old order and for refusing to take a stand against Suharto's corruption, while at the same time the right wing nationalists blamed him for "losing" East Timor.

In late September, seven students were killed in demonstrations protesting a new security bill aimed at giving sweeping powers to the military. Undaunted, demonstrations continued around demands to "Reject Habibie".

President Wahid, although nominated by the "reform fraction" and a past supporter of human rights and of self-determination in East Timor, remains an enigma. He owes his success to last minute vote switching — a kind of political auction which strongly suggests that political principle has taken a back seat to the issue of dividing up power.



Megawati and Wahid after their elections as vice-president and president of Indonesia

Despite his visits to Xanana in a Jakarta jail and also to Dili in July, President Wahid, a compromise candidate, recently joined in the nationalist chorus of criticism against the UN Mission in East Timor and in particular against Australia. If he is to prove his credentials he should immediately release political prisoners such as Peoples Democratic Party activists convicted of subversion, end the political role of the Indonesian military and announce full co-operation with the UN human rights investigation in East Timor.*

Enquiry into Atrocities

On 27 September, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights mandated the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to launch an enquiry into atrocities committed in East Timor since January 1999, regardless of whether Indonesia accepts or rejects it.

Following initial objections from Asian nations, the final resolution wording included a statement that the international commission should have an 'adequate representation of Asian experts'. It will also work 'in cooperation with the Indonesian National Commission on Human Rights'.

Among the countries that voted against the resolution were China, Cuba, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, Russia and Sudan.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson has appointed a five member panel from Costa Rica, Nigeria, India, Papua New Guinea and Germany. They are expected to report back to the UN before the end of December.

Abel Guterres of CNRT called for the inquiry to set up without delay and to be given resources to collect forensic evidence — so that a future war crimes tribunal can try those responsible. He also criticised the narrow mandate and urged an investigation into 24 years of Indonesian occupation and into the Dili massacre.*

Among the countries that voted against the resolution were China, Cuba, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, Russia and Sudan.

Support from around the world

Portugal — As post-ballot violence broke out in East Timor the people of Portugal mobilised in both organised and spontaneous actions. The massive outpouring of solidarity included demonstrations of hundreds of thousands of people, work stoppages, blackouts, human chains of kilometres encircling the embassies of the UN security Council members. People wore white to signal mourning and the UN communications were clogged with hundreds of thousands of e-mails, phone calls and faxes. Portuguese and East Timorese travelled en masse to Spain to demonstrate at the nearest Indonesian Embassy.

Prior to the ballot Portugal pledged to fund the entire budget of East Timor — assuming the vote went for independence — for at least five years.

On October 12 the Portuguese Government hosted a donor meeting to discuss long term assistance to East Timor. Portugal plans to provide approximately \$50-100 million per year for the next 2-3 years to help rebuild East Timor. Portugal also plans to begin paying the salaries of East Timor's civil servants. *



In Melbourne on 20 September 40,000 people marched. The newly arrived group of East Timor refugees were loudly cheered when they appealed for continued fight for the release of their brothers and sisters in the camps in West Timor.

Being interested won't change anything — get involved

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Mail to: Free East Timor Coalition, PO Box 68 419, Newton, Auckland.

APEC — East Timor leaders arrive

On the eve of the APEC Conference Noam Chomsky wrote : "This conference provides an opportunity — there may not be many more — to terminate the tragedy that is once again reaching shocking proportions in East Timor."

As the APEC leaders arrived in Auckland Bishop Belo's house was being burnt and an orgy of shooting and looting was underway in Dili. Refugees and staff had been herded out of the Red Cross compound at gunpoint, while the forced deportations to West Timor were well under way.

With our leaders initially willing to discuss the issue only 'on the margins', activists mobilised. The East Timorese students came up from Palmerston North to reinforce increasingly passionate demonstrations. Jorge da Conceicao Teme challenged Canada's Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy in a well-publicised pavement interview.

On Friday September 9 Jose Ramos Horta and Joao Carrascalao (Australian head of CNRT) arrived — their arrival co-inciding with President Clinton's announcement of a cut-off of military ties. With barely an hour or two to rest, Horta and Carrascalao launched into a series of meetings which began with Prime Minister Shipley and Australia's Foreign Minister Downer and culminated in Horta's meeting with President Clinton.

Horta and Carrascalao gave non-stop interviews, three media conferences and addressed a public meeting and a downtown Auckland rally. They met



Jose Ramos-Horta being greeted in New Zealand by Jorge da Conceicao Teme — photo Murray Addison

representatives of political parties and churches and held a consultation with the East Timorese students.

Horta warned that the only way for the world to stop the genocide was armed intervention — "with or without Jakarta's agreement".

Before he left Auckland, Indonesia had capitulated to international pressure and agreed to "invite" UN peacekeepers. East Timor had come from the margins to the very heart of APEC. New Zealand had suspended its military ties to Jakarta and announced that it would be at the 'forefront' of any UN sanctioned peacekeeping force. ●

Sender: East Timor Independence Committee, PO Box 68 419, Newton, Auckland

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